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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,
FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 2004

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
THEMES:

HEADLINES
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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Chief Prosecutor Urges Appeals Court Chairman to Resign -
Hurriyet
Shiite Massacre in Iraq - Hurriyet
Ambassador Edelman: "Turkey Working Hard for EU Entry" -
Hurriyet
Sistani Convinces al-Sadr for Peace - Sabah
Massacre in Kufa Mosque, 74 Dead - Sabah
Ankara Freezes Halki Seminary Issue - Sabah
Chief of General Staff Ozkok Likens Iraq to Vietnam -
Milliyet
Mortar Bomb Strikes Mosque in Iraq - Turkiye

OPINION MAKERS

MFA: Halki Seminary not Part of a EU Criteria -- Cumhuriyet
Bloody Obstacle to Peace March in Iraq - Radikal
Iraq War Costs US \$177 Million per Day - Yeni Safak
Sistani and al-Sadr Agree on Cease-Fire - Yeni Safak
Bloody Day in Najaf Ends With Peace Agreement - Zaman
Harsh Criticism to Appeals Chairman From Chief Prosecutor -
Zaman

BRIEFING

Ambassador Edelman Comments: Anatolian News Agency reports
that Ambassador Edelman, responding to a journalist's
question in the Black Sea city of Giresun, said that Turkey
has a potentially important role to play in the Greater
Middle East Initiative. 'Now we have widened the scope of
this project,' the Ambassador said, 'so it is now called the
Greater Middle East and North Africa Initiative.' 'For us,
Turkey is a model country,' he continued. 'Although its
population is overwhelmingly Muslim,' the Ambassador said,
'it has applied democracy very successfully.' 'Turkey has
also been reforming its economy for the last 50-60 years,'
he said. In response to a question about the acquisition of
property by foreigners in Turkey, Edelman said, 'I don't
want to interfere in an internal matter in Turkey,' 'so I
can only say that Turkey has been working hard to meet EU
over the past few years.' 'I believe that Turkey will
successfully maintain these efforts. I also believe that
this EU membership process will be beneficial not only to
Turkey and the Turkish people, but also to the EU,' he
concluded.
Ankara 'Freezes' Halki Seminary Issue: "Cumhuriyet" cites
Turkish Foreign Ministry sources as saying that the
reopening of Halki Seminary is not an urgent matter and is
not part of criteria for Turkey's EU accession. Serious
discussion of the issue has therefore been postponed until
December. An unnamed MFA official said that the seminary
could only be reopened within the framework of 'reciprocity'
with Greece with regard to Islamic schools and mosques in
Western Thrace.

Prime Minister's Advisors to Visit Israel: "Hurriyet"
reports that three of Prime Minister Erdogan's top foreign
policy advisors - Egemen Bagis, Omer Celik, and Saban Disli
- will visit Israel on August 30 in an effort to repair
strained Turkish-Israeli ties. Unless there is a change in
the delegation's program, the report claims, they do not
intend to meet with Palestinian representatives.

Putin to Push Russian Helicopters for Turkey: "Milliyet"
reports from Moscow that Russian President Putin plans to
push hard for the sale of Russian helicopters to Turkey
during his September 2-3 visit to Ankara. The report claims
that the Russians are prepared to offer significant
incentives for the deal, including licensed production of
the helicopters in Turkey and permission to export to third
countries. "Milliyet" notes that in the recently canceled
tender process, a US offer of helicopters was rated highest,

but the Turkish side was bothered that the Americans refused to offer production of the US helicopters in Turkey.

Allawi Postpones His Trip to Turkey, Hatemi due in September: Papers report that Iraqi interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi has postponed his visit to Turkey. The visit had been scheduled for the beginning of September. Sources said that Allawi may now visit Ankara in early October. Iranian President Hatemi is also expected to come to Turkey in late September.

General Staff Chief Ozkok Discusses Iraq, PKK : "Milliyet" reports that during a reception following the change of command ceremony at jandarma headquarters yesterday, Chief of General Staff Hilmi Ozkok told reporters that 'the military is closely following developments in Iraq.' 'The Iraqi resistance is very similar to the resistance the US encountered in Vietnam,' he continued, 'though the terrain and circumstances are very different.' Ozkok said that Turkey's March 1, 2003 decision to remain outside the operation in Iraq had proven to be wise. 'The wisdom of a decision is determined by subsequent events,' he said, 'and with the exception of the PKK issue, we are pleased (by our decision).' Ozkok said that although Turkey would like to see a US military action against the PKK in Iraq, he is not expecting such an action. 'They are trying other ways - political means - first,' he concluded.

Chief Prosecutor Urges Appeals Court Chairman to Resign: "Hurriyet" reports that Chief Prosecutor Nuri Ok urged Appeals Court chairman Ozkaya to resign before the new judicial year opens on September 6. Ok stressed that other members of the judiciary will not hesitate to express their reactions if Ozkaya insists on speaking at the opening ceremony. Ozkaya has been accused of having contacts with a Turkish intelligence (MIT) official concerning the case of Alaatin Cakici, a well-known underworld figure. "Milliyet" highlights President Sezer's comments on the judiciary-mafia link. Sezer described the scandal as 'linked to personal mistakes, not to the mistakes of the judiciary as an institution.'

EDITORIAL OPINION: : Situation in Iraq

"Iraq moves toward national resistance" Hasan Unal argued in the Islamist-intellectual "Zaman" (8/27): "The current situation in Iraq shows a clear miscalculation by the US side. Even in the beginning, there were no Iraqis to greet US forces with roses and cheers. The US plan to bring democracy to Iraq is also far from convincing. This is an act of occupation, which is losing international support with every passing day. . The growing resistance in Iraq is beginning to look like a national movement. It has the potential to begin a trend toward nationalization throughout the Arab world. It is quite possible to see a nationalist process in all of the Arab countries, especially if and when the US launches its Greater Middle East and North Africa project. . Unlike the Balkans, the concepts of the nation state and nationhood did not take root in the Middle East geography. The Arab countries became independent in the post-World War II period, but very few of them fought for independence like Algeria did against the French. Nationalist feelings were always suspended under totalitarian regimes. But there are now signs that a national resistance movement, taking advantage of the US weakness in Iraq, might change the fate of the Middle East."

"Underestimating the Shiites" Hakan Celik commented in the mass appeal-sensational "Posta" (8/27): "The US has made many miscalculations about Iraq. The underestimation of the Shiite resistance is one of the biggest ones. US forces are having a very hard time controlling the Najaf uprising. The loss of civilian lives because of American operations there is certainly a major reason for the growing outrage among Shiites. The worst part is the fact that the outrage is not limited to militants, but extends to ordinary Iraqis as well. American forces continue their operations near sacred Shiite shrines, which is a big risk. Shiite militants are also capable of trapping the Americans by dragging them toward the sacred areas so that they manage to provoke more Iraqis against US forces. The current American image in Iraq is very negative, and includes the perception that US forces are willing to bomb shrines and mosques in pursuit of their goals. This is a very ominous development for Washington."

EDELMAN